

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 4, 2005.

Per the above amendment, claims 1-17 have been canceled and new claims 18-37 added.

The features of the apparatuses and recording mediums of claims 18-28 are that: (1) a specified parameter of at least one segment of first contents data is converted in response to parameter information and map data to generate second contents data, (2) the segment corresponds to a specified pixel, (3) the parameter information designates the specified parameter which affects reproduction of the first contents data, (4) the map data designates a position of the specified pixel, and (5) the parameter information and the map data are embedded into the second contents data as watermark information.

The features of the apparatuses and recording mediums of claims 29-34 are that: (1) a jump destination for each of prescribed unit portions of compressively encoded data is indicated, and thereby an arrangement order different from an order of reproducing the prescribed unit portions is designated and a jump-destination address which affects reproduction of contents data is generated, (2) copyright information is generated, (3) the jump-destination address and the copyright information are embedded into input contents data as watermark information to generate first watermark-added contents data, (4) the first watermark-added contents data is compressively encoded into second watermark-added contents data, and (5) prescribed unit portions of the second watermark-added contents data are rearranged in response to the jump-destination address into an order different from the order of reproducing the prescribed unit portions.

The features of the apparatuses and recording medium of claims 35-37 are that: (1) watermark information is generated which affects reproduction of first contents data,

(2) the first contents data is converted into second contents data in response to the watermark information, and (3) the watermark information is embedded into the second contents data.

Thus, a common feature of the apparatuses and recording mediums of claims 18-37 is that watermark information which affects reproduction of contents data is embedded into the contents data.

The now canceled claims 1-17 were rejected under Numao et al (US Patent No. 6,055,321).

Numao et al (US Patent No. 6,055,321), column 8, line 46 to column 9, line 23, and Figs. 4 and 5, disclose that hidden data (data to be hidden) is placed in media data, and the states of elements of the hidden data are decided by the message data array and the media data array, and also the positions in the media data array at which the elements of the hidden data should be placed are decided by the message data array and the media data array. Therefore, the hidden data in Numao et al is of the type which will not affect the reproduction of the media data. Accordingly, even in the event that the hidden data is removed from the hidden-data-added media data, the reproduction of the media data will not be affected.

Thus, Numao et al do not teach the above-mentioned common feature of the apparatuses and recording mediums of claims 18-37.

Therefore, it is believed that claims 18-37 are patentable over Numao et al.

The embodiments of this invention relate to examples of the watermark information embedded into the contents data and affecting reproduction of the contents data. In the first to fourth embodiments of this invention, the signal representative of a DC offset value which is produced by the parameter generator 13 or the DC offset

generator 23 is the watermark information embedded into the contents data and affecting reproduction of the contents data. In the fifth embodiment of this invention, color-space matrix conversion or data-sample exchange conversion corresponds to the watermark information embedded into the contents data and affecting reproduction of the contents data (see the specification, page 36, lines 18-21).

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the same to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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